

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 05015 251811Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 /060 W
-----260719Z 106901 /21

R 251747Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05015

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XH, UK
SUBJECT: MARCH 21-22 MEETING OF EC EASTERN EUROPE
WORKING GROUP

1. FCO EASTERN EUROPE AND SOVIET DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN US BRIEFING ON MARCH 21-22 MEETING IN LONDON OF EC EASTERN EUROPE WORKING GROUP. MEETING WAS KEYED TO MARCH 29-30 MEETING OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS, TO WHOM WORKING GROUP PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL.
2. WORKING GROUP'S FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS PREPARATION OF FACTUAL UPDATE ON GENERAL ASPECTS OF DISSIDENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 05015 251811Z

3. SECOND PROJECT WAS DRAFTING OF A SEPARATE STUDY ON DISSSENT AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE USSR. WORKING GROUP NOTED THAT DISSSENT WAS HISTORICALLY AN INTELLECTUAL (AS OPPOSED TO POPULAR) TRADITION IN THE SOVIET UNION, GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PERIOD OF LIBERTY IN MODERN RUSSIAN HISTORY; THIS GADFLY APPROACH WAS IN CONTRAST TO THAT IN VARIOUS EE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD

KNOWN INTERNAL POLITICAL FREEDOMS WITHIN LIVING MEMORY. DISCUSSING DISSENT AS A MANIFESTATION OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND NATIONAL MINORITIES WITHIN THE USSR, THE WORKING GROUP SADLY CONCLUDED THAT THE "MOVEMENT" WAS VERY MUCH A MINORITY PHENOMENON WHICH WAS TREATED WITH APATHY AT BEST AND HOSTILITY AT THE WORST BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE SOVIET POPULATION.

4. ALTHOUGH, "THE DOGS BARK, BUT THE CARAVAN MOVES ON," TENDENCY OF THE CPSU TO CONSIDER ANY KIND OF DISSENT AS TREASON TO THE MOTHERLAND. THIS LED TO THE INEVITABLE SECONDARY EFFECT OF SOVIET OVERREACTION TOWARD ANY FOREIGN (E.G., WESTERN) SUPPORT OR SYMPATHY SHOWN TO SOVIET DISSENTERS.

5. DESPITE THIS TENDENCY TO OVERREACTION, HOWEVER, THE WORKING GROUP CONCLUDED THAT SO LONG AS THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS NOT MADE THE SOLE BASIS OF WESTERN POLICY TOWARD THE USSR, "NON-LINKAGE" OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILITARY OR ECONOMIC ISSUES REMAINED FEASIBLE IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

6. THE WORKING GROUP SUGGESTED THAT EC MEMBER NATIONS TAKE A COMMON LINE IN THEIR PUBLIC DECLARATIONS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR BUT RECOGNIZED THAT DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS OF NATIONAL INTEREST WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT IN THESE DECLARATIONS BEING NUANCED.

7. IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSING SUCH NUANCES, OUR FCO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 05015 251811Z

SOURCE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THAT HMG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING A NON-COMMUNITY (I.E., USG) APPRAISAL OR "LEAGUE TABLE" OF WESTERN EUROPEAN REACTIONS TO DISSIDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN EASTERN EUROPE.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON05015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0363
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770322/aaaaasyt.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b3ed0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2998521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 21-22 MEETING OF EC EASTERN EUROPE WORKING GROUP
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, XH, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b3ed0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009